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EP 0 482 838 B1

Description

Background of the Invention

5 1. Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a recording sheet, more particularly, a transparent recording sheet suitable for use with ink-jet printers.

10 2. Discussion of the Art

Transparencies for use with overhead projectors can be produced by imagewise deposition of liquid ink of various colors onto thin, flexible, transparent polymeric sheets. Such imagewise deposition of ink can be carried out by such apparatus as pen plotters and ink-jet printers. It is desirable that the surface of liquid
15 absorbent transparency materials be tack free to the touch and retain their integrity even after absorption of significant quantities of ink.

During normal use of pen plotters and ink-jet printers, the inks used in such machines are exposed to open air for long periods of time prior to imaging. After such exposure to air, the ink must still function in an acceptable manner, without deterioration, and in particular, without loss of solvent. To meet this require-
20 ment, ink formulations typically utilize solvents of very low volatility, such as water, ethylene glycol, propylene glycol, and so on. Inks that contain water or water-miscible solvents are commonly referred to as aqueous inks, and the solvents for these inks used are commonly referred to as aqueous liquids.

Because of the low volatility of aqueous liquids, drying of an image by means of evaporation is very limited. In the case of imaging onto a paper sheet, which has a fibrous nature, a significant amount of the
25 liquid diffuses into the sheet, and the surface appears dry to the touch within a very short time. In the case of imaging onto polymeric film, some means of absorbing aqueous liquids is needed if satisfactory drying of the image is to occur.

Because simple polymeric systems are generally either limited in absorbency or in structural integrity, compositions useful as transparent liquid absorbent materials have been formed by blending a liquid-
30 insoluble or low absorbent material with a liquid-soluble, or high absorbent material. The liquid-insoluble material is presumed to form a matrix, within which the liquid soluble material resides, so as to preserve both the properties of absorbency and structural integrity. Examples of such blends are disclosed in U.S. Patent Nos. 4,300,820 and 4,369,229, wherein the matrix forming polymer is a terpolymer comprising hydrophobic monomeric units, hydrophilic monomeric units, and acid-containing monomeric units, with the
35 water-soluble portions of the compositions being polyvinyl lactams.

Other examples of blends comprising water-soluble and water-insoluble polymeric compositions are disclosed in European Patent Application No. EP 0 233 703, wherein water-insoluble acrylic polymers having acid functionality are blended with polyvinyl pyrrolidone for use as ink-receptive layers on films to be
40 imaged by ink-jet printers or pen plotters.

A problem that frequently arises in the formulation of polymer blends is the incompatibility of the polymers being blended. It is well-known that polymeric materials having widely different properties generally tend to be incompatible with one another. When attempts are made to blend polymers that are incompatible, phase separation occurs, resulting in haze, lack of transparency, and other forms of inhomogeneity.

Compatibility between two or more polymers in a blend can often be improved by incorporating into the liquid-insoluble matrix-forming polymer chains monomeric units that exhibit some affinity for the liquid-
45 soluble polymer. Polymeric materials having even a small amount of acid functionality, as in the patents cited previously, are more likely to exhibit compatibility with polyvinyl lactams than would polymers not having acid functionality. Generally, the compatibility of polymers being blended is improved if the
50 polymers are capable of hydrogen bonding to one another.

A second form of incompatibility noted in using blends of liquid-absorbent polymers is the incompatibility of the matrix-forming insoluble polymer with the liquid being absorbed. For example, if the liquid being absorbed is water, and if the water-insoluble polymers are hydrophobic, some inhibition of water absorption ability can be expected. One method of overcoming this difficulty is to utilize hydrophilic matrix polymers
55 that are water-insoluble at the temperatures at which they are to be used, though they may be water-soluble at a different temperature. In U.S. Patent No. 4,503,111, ink-receptive coatings comprising either poly(vinyl alcohol) or gelatin blended with polyvinyl pyrrolidone are disclosed. Both poly(vinyl alcohol) and gelatin, being water-insoluble at room temperature, are able to act as matrix-forming polymers for these coatings,

and the coatings are quite receptive to aqueous inks. However, the coatings do exhibit a tendency to become tacky, either because of imaging, or because of high humidity.

It therefore becomes clear that while blends of soluble and insoluble polymers may be useful as liquid absorbent compositions, they suffer major limitations in liquid absorption ability and in durability. It would be desirable to provide a single polymeric system that can absorb sufficient amounts of liquid to give a fast drying, non-tacky coating, while maintaining all other desirable properties.

Summary of the Invention

This invention provides a recording sheet comprising a transparent support bearing on at least one major surface thereof a transparent ink-receptive layer comprising:

(1) from about 92 to about 99.5% by weight of a water-soluble copolymer comprising:

(a) from about 0.5 to about 20% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer having acidic groups, up to 100% of said acidic groups being present as an ammonium salt or a salt prepared from a volatile amine;

(b) from about 10 to about 99.5% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of polar compounds containing nitrogen groups such as vinyl lactams and acrylamides; and
(c) up to about 70% by weight of a hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated alkylester; and

(2) from about 0.5 to about 8% by weight of a polyfunctional aziridine crosslinking agent;

said ink-receptive layer having been crosslinked after being coated onto said support.

When imaged with an aqueous ink, the recording sheet gives a fast drying, non-tacky image area while maintaining high durability and optical clarity.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Materials that are suitable for the transparent support can be any transparent, polymeric material, preferably one selected from polyesters, e.g., polyethylene terephthalate, cellulose acetates, polycarbonates, polyvinyl chlorides, polystyrenes, polysulfones, blends of the foregoing, multi-layered films made from the foregoing polymeric materials, and combinations thereof. For ink-jet printing, the preferred polymeric film is polyethylene terephthalate having a thickness of about 50 to 125 micrometers.

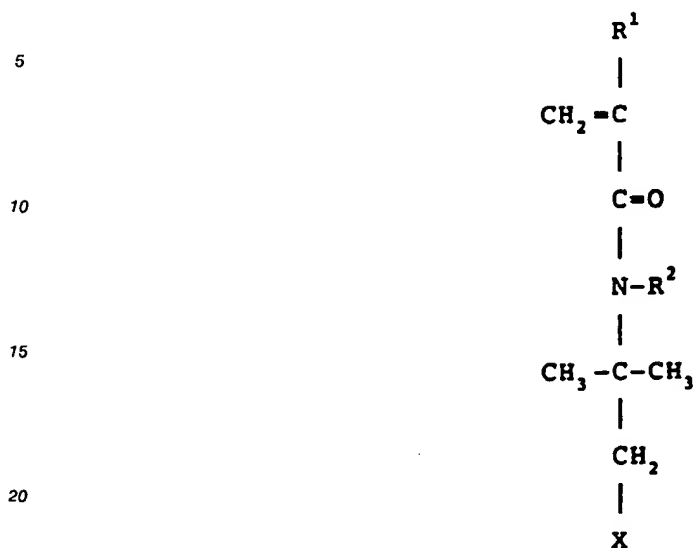
The composition for preparing the ink-receptive layer comprises a water-soluble copolymer and a polyfunctional aziridine crosslinking agent. As used herein, the term "copolymer" means a polymer formed from two or more different monomeric units. Terpolymers are within the scope of the definition of copolymers. The water-soluble copolymer can be formed from two or more types of monomeric units. At least one of the monomeric units can be provided by any ethylenically unsaturated monomer having acidic groups, such as:

(a) acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, p-styrene sulfonic acid, 2-acrylamido-2-methyl propane sulfonic acid;

(b) quaternary ammonium salts of acids described in (a);

(c) salts prepared from a volatile amine of acids described in (a); and

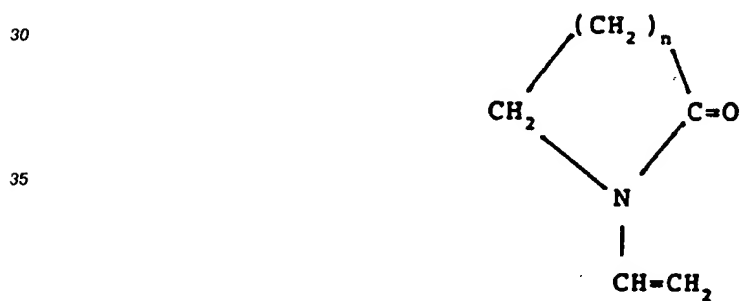
(d) ammonium salt of acid monomers having the structure:



wherein R^1 represents H or $-\text{CH}_3$, R^2 represents H or an alkyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, and X represents $-\text{COONH}_4$ or $-\text{SO}_3 \text{NH}_4$.

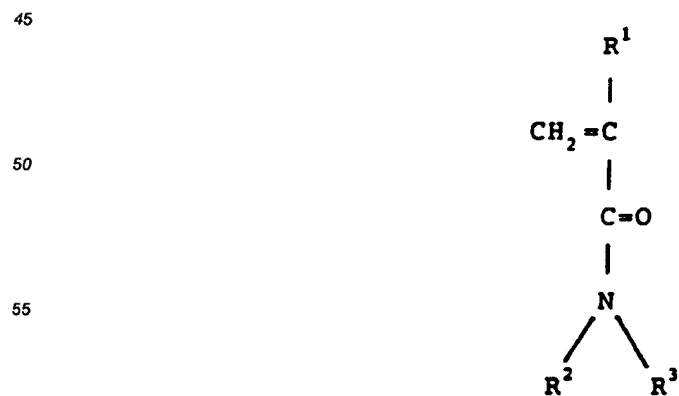
At least one of the monomeric units can be selected from:

(a) vinyl lactams having the repeating structure:



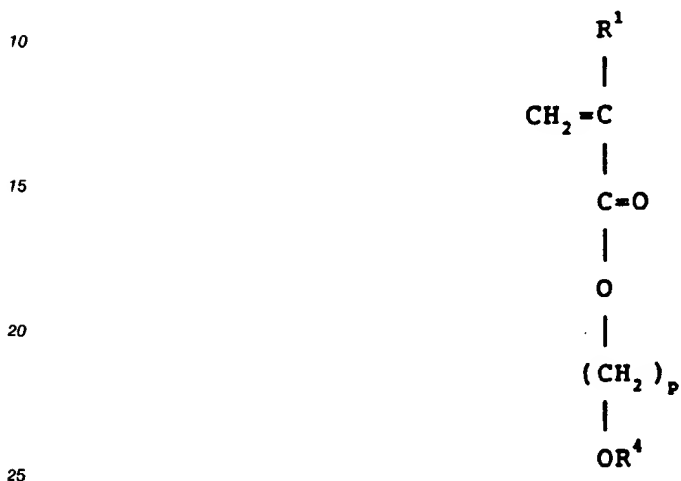
wherein n represents the integer 2 or 3, the preferred monomer being N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone.

(b) amides, such as acrylamide or methacrylamide, having the structure:

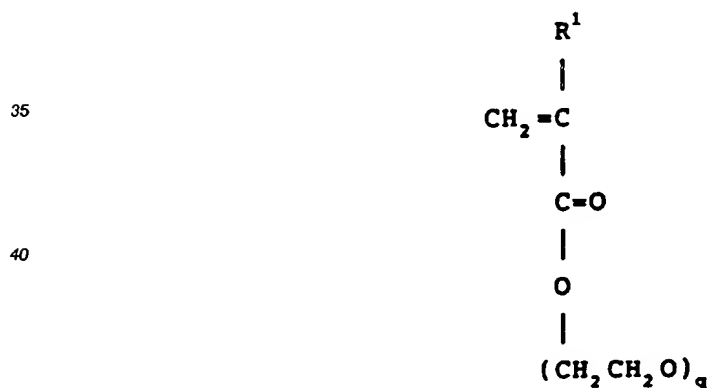


wherein R^1 and R^2 are as described previously, and R^3 represents H, alkyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, preferably having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group, or alkoxyalkyl group having the structure $-(CH_2)_m-OR^2$ where m represents an integer from 1 to 3, inclusive, and R^2 is as described previously.

- 5 For a terpolymer, a specific type of copolymer, a third monomeric unit is employed. This third monomeric unit can be a hydrophilic ethylenically unsaturated alkyl ester, such as (a) alkoxy alkylacrylates, hydroxy alkylacrylates, alkoxy alkylmethacrylates, or hydroxy alkylmethacrylates having the structure:

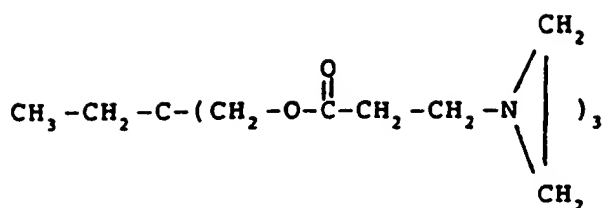


wherein p represents an integer from 1 to 4, inclusive, preferably 2 or 3, R^1 is as described previously, and R^4 represents H or alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; or (b) alkoxy acrylates or alkoxy methacrylates having the structure:

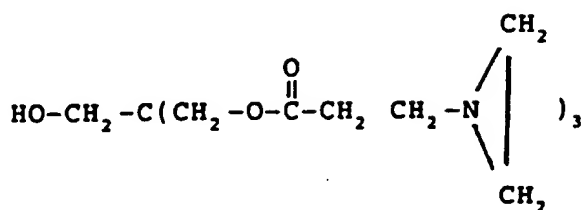


wherein q represents an integer from 5 to 25, inclusive, and R^1 is as described previously.

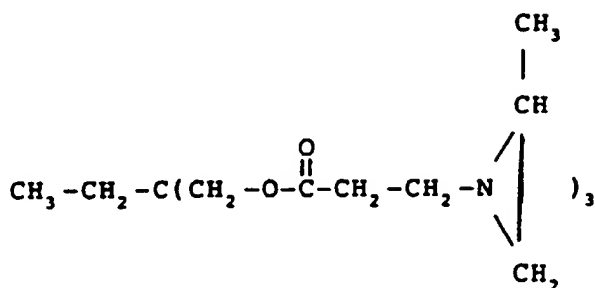
The preferred crosslinking agent is a polyfunctional aziridine such as trimethylolpropane-tris-(β -(N-aziridinyloxy)propionate)



pentaerythritol-tris-(β -(N-aziridinyl)propionate)



trimethylolpropane-tris-(β -(N-methylaziridinyl) propionate)

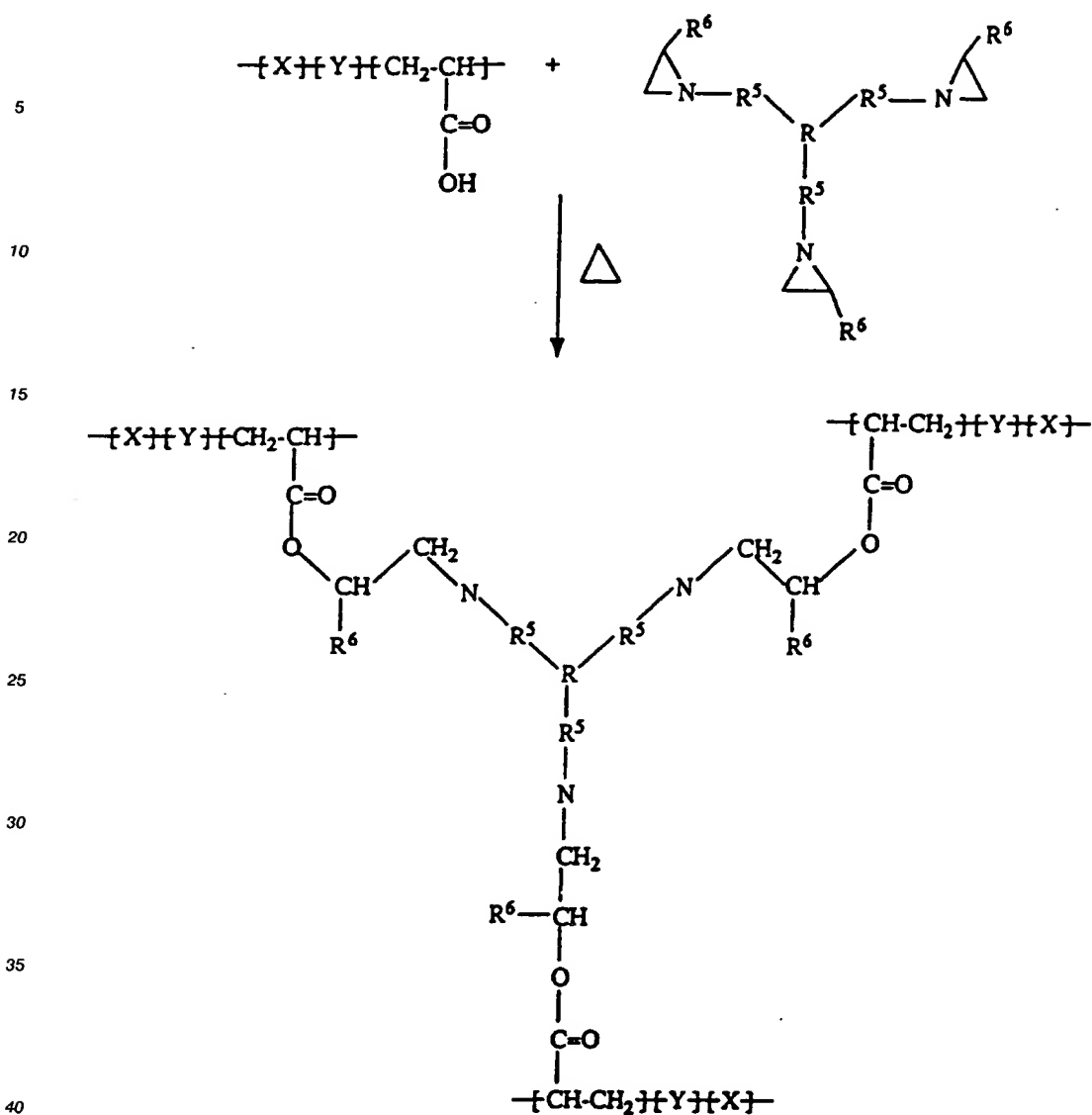


and the like, so long as they have at least two crosslinking sites in each molecule.

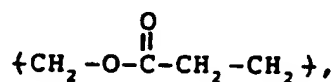
The crosslinking agent typically comprises from about 0.5% to about 8% by weight of the composition for preparing the ink-receptive layer, more preferably from about 1% to about 6% by weight. At a level of below 0.5% by weight, the crosslinking density is too low, adversely affecting both image quality and coating integrity. At a level above 8% by weight, crosslinking density is too high, resulting in low ink absorption.

The water-soluble copolymer is typically formed by free radical, emulsion, or suspension polymerization techniques in an aqueous or an organic medium, preferably water. From about 0.01 to about 2.0% by weight (based on total weight of monomers) of a free radical initiator is typically employed. Polymerization can be carried out at a temperature of from about 25°C to reflux temperature, depending on the initiator and the polymerization technique. In general, the copolymer thus made can be mixed with an appropriate amount of polyfunctional aziridine crosslinking agent to form an aqueous coating solution, containing from about 5 to about 10% by weight solids. The solution can be coated by conventional means, e.g., knife coating, rotogravure coating, reverse roll coating, or the like, onto a transparent support and dried at a temperature of about 200°F for three to four minutes. Drying can be accomplished by means of heated air.

Crosslinking takes place during the drying process to form a transparent ink-receptive layer of a crosslinked polymeric network. This process can be schematically depicted as follows:



Wherein X and Y represent hydrophilic monomers, as described previously, R represents CH₃-CH₂-C-
 45 or HO-CH₂-C-, R⁵ represents



50

R⁶ represents H or CH₃.

Solutions for forming the ink-receptive layer of the present invention can also contain certain additional
 modifying ingredients, such as adhesion promoters, particles, surfactants, viscosity modifiers, and like
 55 materials, provided that such additives do not adversely affect the ink-receptivity of the layer.

If preferred, an adhesion promoting priming layer can be interposed between the ink-receptive layer
 and the transparent support. Such an adhesion promoting layer can include chemical priming coatings and
 surface treatments, such as corona treatment. Adhesion of the ink-receptive layer can also be promoted by

interposing between the priming layer and the ink-receptive layer a gelatin sublayer of the type used in photographic film backings. Film backings having both a priming layer and a gelatin sublayer are commercially available, and are frequently designated as primed and subbed film backings.

Recording sheets of the present invention particularly useful for ink-jet printing can have the ink-receptive layer thereof overcoated with an ink-permeable, anti-tack protective layer, such as, for example, a layer comprising poly(vinyl alcohol) in which starch particles have been dispersed. This overcoat layer can also provide surface properties to aid in properly controlling the spread of ink droplets to improve image quality.

In order to illustrate the various embodiments of the present invention, the following non-limiting examples are provided.

Example 1

A hydrophilic polymer was made by mixing N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone (37.5 parts by weight), acrylamide (10.0 parts by weight), ammonium salt of acrylic acid (2.5 parts by weight, 6.3 g of 40% solution in water), azo-bis-isobutyronitrile (0.07 part by weight, "Vazo", E.I. DuPont de Nemours and Co.), and deionized water (283 parts by weight) in a 500 ml bottle. The mixture was purged with nitrogen gas for 10 to 15 minutes; then the bottle was immersed in a bath having a constant temperature of 60 °C and the mixture allowed to react, i.e., polymerize, for about 18 hours. After the reaction was completed, the viscous resin that was obtained was then diluted with 100 g of deionized water to give a solution containing 10.7% solids. The conversion was calculated to be about 92%.

A portion of the resin solution (15.37 g) was further diluted with deionized water (10 g). The pH of the solution was at 7, and was increased to 8 by adding a few drops of a dilute ammonium hydroxide solution. Polyfunctional aziridine (.034 g, having a functionality of ~ 3.3, XAMA-7, available from Sannacor Ind., Inc.) dissolved in 1.0 ml of methanol was then added to the solution, and the solution was thoroughly mixed on a roller mill prior to being coated onto a 0.1 mm primed and subbed polyethylene terephthalate film ("Scotchpar" Type PH primed and subbed film, available from Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company) at a wet thickness of 0.125 mm. The coating was then dried in an oven at a temperature of 200 °F for four minutes.

The coated film was imaged by a Hewlett-Packard Desk Jet ink-jet printer. The ink dried in about 30 seconds and exhibited very little tack.

Comparative Example A

The film of this example was made in the same manner as was that of Example 1, except that no crosslinking agent was added. The coated film was again imaged by a Hewlett-Packard Desk Jet ink-jet printer and the ink remained tacky for 10 minutes.

Example 2 and Comparative Example B

A hydrophilic polymer was made by mixing N,N-dimethylacrylamide (32.5 parts by weight, Aldrich Chemical Co.), methoxy ethyl acrylate (15.0 parts by weight, CPS Chemical Co.), ammonium salt of acrylic acid (2.5 parts by weight), azo-bis-isobutyronitrile (0.07 parts by weight, "Vazo"), and deionized water (283.3 parts by weight) in a 500 ml bottle. The mixture was purged with nitrogen gas for 10 minutes and then polymerized for 18 to 24 hours at a temperature of 60 °C. The polymerized material was diluted with deionized water to give a solution containing 7% solids.

The following formulations were then prepared.

Example n .	Ingredient	Amount (g)
5	2	
	Hydrophilic polymer (7% solids)	20.0
	Surfactant	
10	(2% solution in water, "Triton X100", available from Rohm and Haas)	0.3
	Crosslinking agent	
15	(10% solution in water, XAMA-7)	0.95
20	Comparative B	
	Hydrophilic polymer (7% solids)	20.0
	Surfactant	
25	(2% solution in water, "Triton X100")	0.3

These formulations were coated onto a 4 mil gelatin subbed polyethylene terephthalate film at 0.15 mm wet thickness and dried at a temperature of 200 °F for five minutes. Both films were imaged by a Hewlett-Packard Desk Jet ink-jet printer. The coating containing a crosslinking agent gave a good image that dried within 90 seconds to a tack-free state. The coating that did not contain a crosslinking agent remained tacky for more than 10 minutes.

Example 3

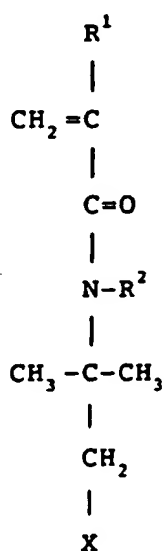
A mixture of N-vinyl-2-pyrrolidone (16.0 parts by weight, GAF Corporation), methacrylamide (16.0 parts by weight), 2-hydroxyethyl methyl acrylate (7.5 parts by weight), methoxyethyl methacrylate (7.5 parts by weight), ammonium salt of acrylic acid (2.5 parts by weight), azo-bis-isobutyronitrile (0.07 parts by weight, "Vazo"), isopropyl alcohol (8.0 parts by weight), and deionized water (276 parts by weight) was introduced into a 500 ml bottle. The mixture was purged with nitrogen gas for 10 to 15 minutes and then polymerized at a temperature of 60 °C for 8 to 10 hours. The resin obtained was diluted with deionized water to give a solution containing 7.0% solids.

A portion of the resin solution (20.0 g) was mixed with surfactant (0.3 g of a 2.0% solution in water, "Triton X100") and crosslinking agent (1.4 g of a 10.0% solution in water, XAMA-7). The solution was then coated onto 0.1 mm primed and subed polyethylene terephthalate film at a 0.15 mm wet thickness and dried in an oven at a temperature of 95 °C for five minutes. The film was then imaged by Hewlett-Packard 7550A Graphic Printer pen plotter. The colored images were bright, and they dried quickly without bleeding, picking, or pen clogging.

Claims

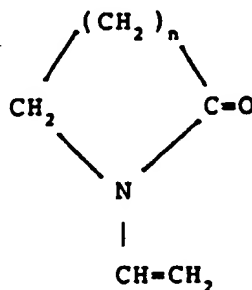
1. A recording sheet comprising a transparent support bearing on at least one major surface thereof a transparent ink-receptive layer comprising:
 - (1) from about 92 to about 99.5% by weight of a water-soluble copolymer; and
 - (2) from about 0.5 to about 8% by weight of a polyfunctional aziridine crosslinking agent; said ink-receptive layer having been crosslinked after being coated onto said support.

2. The recording sheet of Claim 1, wherein said water-soluble copolymer comprises:
- (a) from about 0.5 to about 20% by weight of at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer having acidic groups, up to 100% of said acidic groups being present as an ammonium salt or a salt prepared from a volatile amine;
 - (b) from about 10 to about 99.5% by weight of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of polar compounds containing nitrogen groups; and
 - (c) up to about 70% by weight of a hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated alkylester.
3. The recording sheet of Claim 2, wherein said at least one ethylenically unsaturated monomer having acidic groups is selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, p-styrene sulfonic acid, 2-actylamido-2-methyl propane sulfonic acid;
 - (b) quaternary ammonium salts of acids described in (a);
 - (c) salts prepared from a volatile amine of acids described in (a); and
 - (d) ammonium salts of acid monomers having the structure:



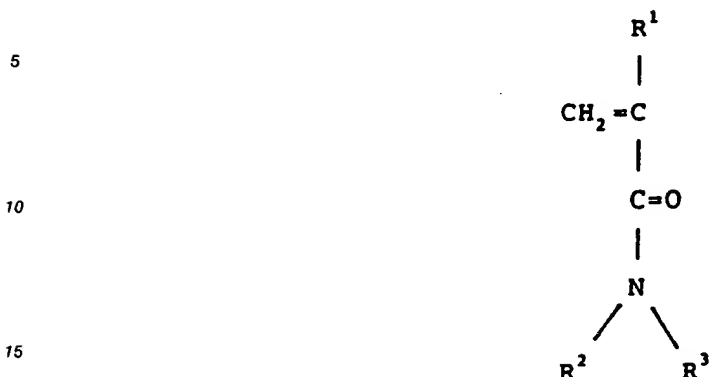
wherein R^1 represents H or $-CH_3$, R^2 represents H or an alkyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, and X represents $-COONH_4$, or $-SO_3NH_4$.

4. The recording sheet of Claim 2, wherein said polar compounds containing nitrogen groups selected from the group consisting of:
- (a) vinyl lactams having the repeating structure:



wherein n represents the integer 2 or 3.

(b) amides, such as acrylamide or methacrylamide, having the structure:

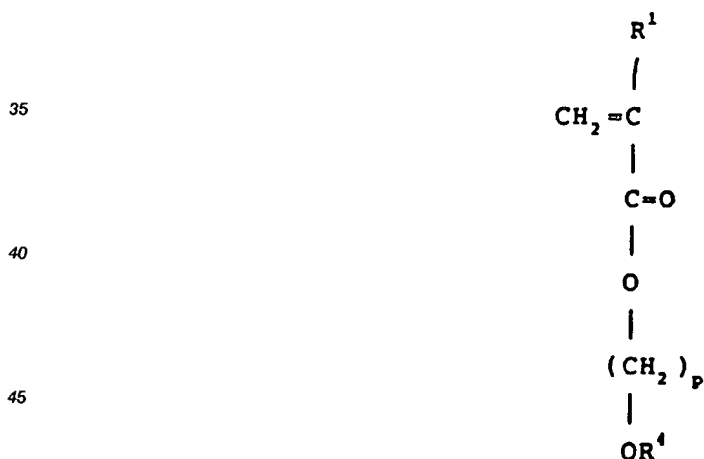


wherein R^1 represents H or $-\text{CH}_3$, R^2 represents H or an alkyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, and R^3 represents H, alkyl group having up to 10 carbon atoms, preferably having from 1 to 4 carbon atoms, hydroxyalkyl group, or alkoxyalkyl group having the structure $-(\text{CH}_2)_m-\text{OR}^2$ where m represents an integer from 1 to 3, inclusive.

5. The recording sheet of Claim 4, wherein said polar compound is N-vinyl-pyrrolidone.

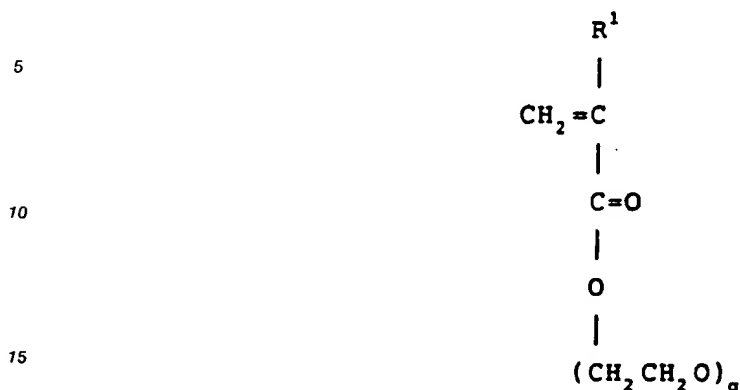
6. The recording sheet of Claim 2, wherein said hydrophilic, ethylenically unsaturated alkylester is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) alkoxy alkylacrylates, hydroxy alkylacrylates, alkoxy alkylmethacrylates, or hydroxy alkylmethacrylates having the structure:



wherein p represents an integer from 1 to 4, inclusive, preferably 2 or 3, R^1 represents H or $-\text{CH}_3$, and R^4 represents H or alkyl group having 1 to 4 carbon atoms; and

(b) alkoxy acrylates or alkoxy methacrylates having the structure:



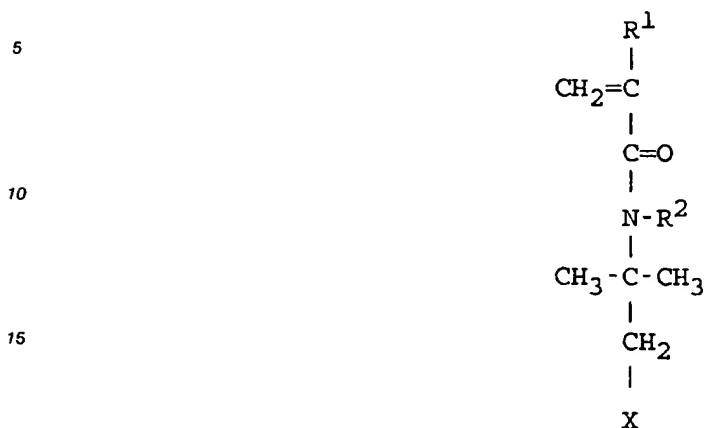
wherein q represents an integer from 5 to 25, inclusive, and R¹ as described previously.

7. The recording sheet of Claim 1, wherein said polyfunctional aziridine crosslinking agent is selected from the group consisting of trimethylolpropane-tris-(β-(N-aziridiny)propionate), pentaerythritol-tris-(β-(N-aziridiny)propionate), and trimethylolpropane-tris-(β-(N-methylaziridiny) propionate).
8. The recording sheet of Claim 1, wherein the weight of said polyfunctional aziridine crosslinking agent ranges from about 1.0 to about 6.0% by weight of the layer.
9. The recording sheet of Claim 1, wherein said transparent support is a polyester film.

Patentansprüche

1. Aufzeichnungsfolie, umfassend einen transparenten Träger, der auf mindestens einer seiner größeren Oberflächen eine transparente, Druckfarbe aufnehmende Schicht trägt, umfassend:
 - (1) von etwa 92 % bis etwa 99,5 Gewichtsprozent ein wasserlösliches Copolymer und
 - (2) von etwa 0,5 % bis etwa 8 Gewichtsprozent einen polyfunktionalen Aziridin-Netzbildner;
 wobei die Druckfarbe aufnehmende Schicht nach dem Auftragen auf den Träger vernetzt worden ist.
2. Aufzeichnungsfolie nach Anspruch 1, bei welcher das wasserlösliche Copolymer umfaßt:
 - (a) von etwa 0,5 % bis etwa 20 Gewichtsprozent mindestens ein ethylenisch ungesättigtes Monomer mit Säuregruppen, wobei bis zu 100 % der Säuregruppen als ein Ammoniumsalz oder als ein Salz vorliegen, das aus einem flüchtigen Amin hergestellt wird;
 - (b) von etwa 10 % bis etwa 99,5 Gewichtsprozent mindestens ein Monomer, ausgewählt aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus polaren Verbindungen, die Stickstoffgruppen enthalten; und
 - (c) bis zu etwa 70 Gewichtsprozent eines hydrophilen, ethylenisch ungesättigten Alkylesters.
3. Aufzeichnungsfolie nach Anspruch 2, bei welcher mindestens ein ethylenisch ungesättigtes Monomer mit Säuregruppen ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus:
 - (a) Acrylsäure, Methacrylsäure, p-Styrolsulfonsäure, 2-Acrylamido-2-methylpropansulfonsäure;
 - (b) quartäre Ammoniumsalze von Säuren, die unter (a) beschrieben wurden;
 - (c) aus flüchtigen Aminen der unter (a) beschriebenen Säuren hergestellte Salze und

(d) Ammoniumsalze von Säuremonomeren mit der Struktur:

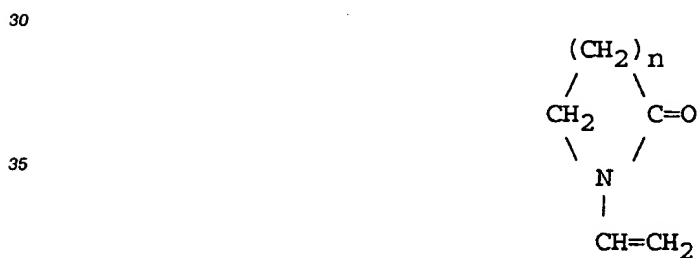


worin sind:

- R^1 Wasserstoff oder $-\text{CH}_3$,
 R^2 Wasserstoff oder eine Alkyl-Gruppe mit bis zu 10 Kohlenstoffatomen und
 X $-\text{COONH}_4$ oder $-\text{SO}_3\text{NH}_4$.

4. Aufzeichnungsfolie nach Anspruch 2, bei welcher die polaren, Stickstoffgruppen enthaltenden Verbindungen ausgewählt werden aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus:

(a) Vinyl lactame mit der Struktureinheit:



worin n die ganze Zahl 2 oder 3 darstellt.

(b) Amide, wie beispielsweise Acrylamid oder Methacrylamid mit der Struktur:

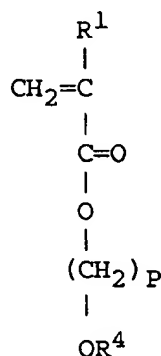


worin sind:

R^1 Wasserstoff oder $-\text{CH}_3$,

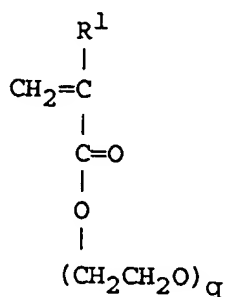
R² Wasserstoff oder eine Alkyl-Gruppe mit bis zu 10 Kohlenstoffatomen und
 R³ Wasserstoff, eine Alkyl-Gruppe mit bis zu 10 Kohlenstoffatomen, vorzugsweise mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen, Hydroxyalkyl-Gruppe oder Alkoxyalkyl-Gruppe mit der Struktur $-(CH_2)_m-OR^2$, worin m eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 3 einschließlich darstellt.

- 5 5. Aufzeichnungsfolie nach Anspruch 4, bei welcher die molare Verbindung N-Vinylpyrrolidon ist.
6. Aufzeichnungsfolie nach Anspruch 2, bei welcher der hydrophile, ethylenisch ungesättigte Alkylester ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus:
- 10 (a) Alkoxyalkylacrylaten, Hydroxyalkylacrylaten, Alkoxyalkylmethacrylaten oder Hydroxyalkylmethacrylaten mit der Struktur:



worin sind:

- 30 p eine ganze Zahl von 1 bis 4 einschließlich, vorzugsweise 2 oder 3,
 R¹ Wasserstoff oder -CH₃ und
 R⁴ Wasserstoff oder eine Alkyl-Gruppe mit 1 bis 4 Kohlenstoffatomen; und
 (b) Alkoxyacrylate oder Alkoxyethacrylate mit der Struktur:



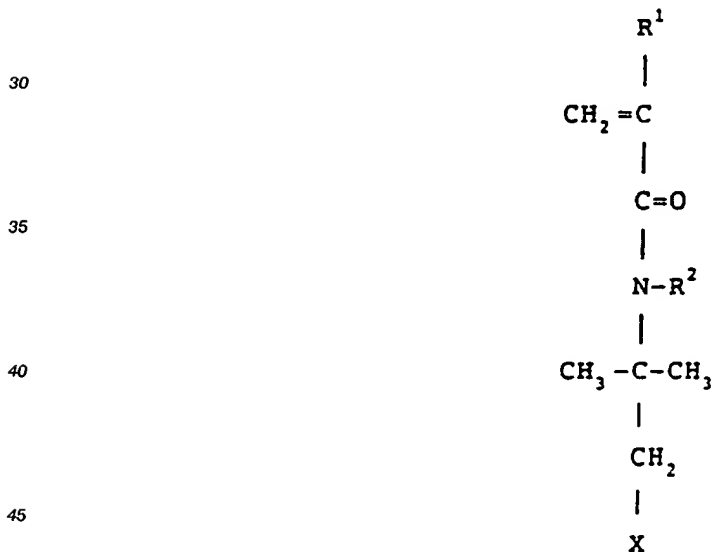
worin sind:

- 45 q eine ganze Zahl von 5 bis 25 einschließlich und
 R¹ wie vorstehend beschrieben ist.

- 50 7. Aufzeichnungsfolie nach Anspruch 1, bei welcher das polyfunktionale Aziridin-Vernetzungsmittel ausgewählt wird aus der Gruppe, bestehend aus Trimethylolpropan-*tris*-(β -(N-aziridiny)propionat), Pentaerythritol-*tris*-(β -(N-aziridiny)propionat) und Trimethylolpropan-*tris*-(β -(N-Methylaziridiny)propionat).
- 55 8. Aufzeichnungsfolie nach Anspruch 1, bei welcher das Gewicht des polyfunktionalen Aziridin-Vernetzungsmittels im Bereich von etwa 1,0 bis etwa 6,0 Gewichtsprozent der Schicht liegt.
9. Aufzeichnungsfolie nach Anspruch 1, bei welcher der transparente Träger ein Polyesterfilm ist.

Revendications

1. Feuille d'enregistrement comprenant un support transparent comportant sur au moins une de ses surfaces importantes une couche réceptive à l'encre transparente comprenant :
- 5 (1) environ 92 à environ 99,5 % en poids d'un copolymère soluble dans l'eau; et
 (2) environ 0,5 à environ 8 % en poids d'un agent de réticulation constitué d'une aziridine polyfonctionnelle;
 ladite couche réceptive à l'encre ayant été réticulée après avoir été appliquée sur le support susdit.
- 10 2. Feuille d'enregistrement suivant la revendication 1, dans laquelle le copolymère soluble dans l'eau comprend :
- (a) environ 0,5 à environ 20 % en poids d'au moins un monomère éthyléniquement insaturé comportant des groupes acides, jusqu'à 100 % de ces groupes acides étant présents sous la forme d'un sel d'ammonium ou d'un sel préparé à partir d'une amine volatile;
- 15 (b) environ 10 à environ 99,5 % en poids d'au moins un monomère choisi dans le groupe comprenant les composés polaires contenant des groupes azotés; et
 (c) jusqu'à environ 70 % en poids d'un alkylester éthyléniquement insaturé, hydrophile.
3. Feuille d'enregistrement suivant la revendication 2, dans laquelle au moins le monomère éthyléniquement insaturé précité comportant des groupes acides est choisi dans le groupe comprenant :
- 20 (a) l'acide acrylique, l'acide méthacrylique, l'acide p-styrène sulfonique, l'acide 2-acrylamido-2-méthyl propane sulfonique;
 (b) les sels d'ammonium quaternaire des acides décrits dans (a);
 (c) les sels préparés à partir d'une amine volatile des acides décrits dans (a); et
 25 (d) les sels d'ammonium de monomères d'acide ayant la structure :

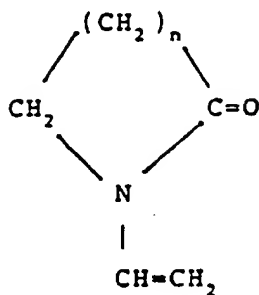


50 dans laquelle R¹ représente H ou -CH₃, R² représente H ou un groupe alkyle comportant jusqu'à 10 atomes de carbone et X représente -COONH₄ ou -SO₃NH₄.

4. Feuille d'enregistrement suivant la revendication 2, dans laquelle les composés polaires contenant des groupes azotés sont choisis dans le groupe comprenant :

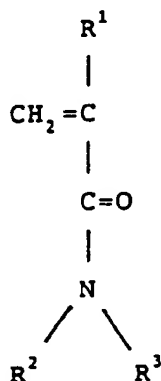
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(a) les lactames vinyliques comportant la structure répétitive :



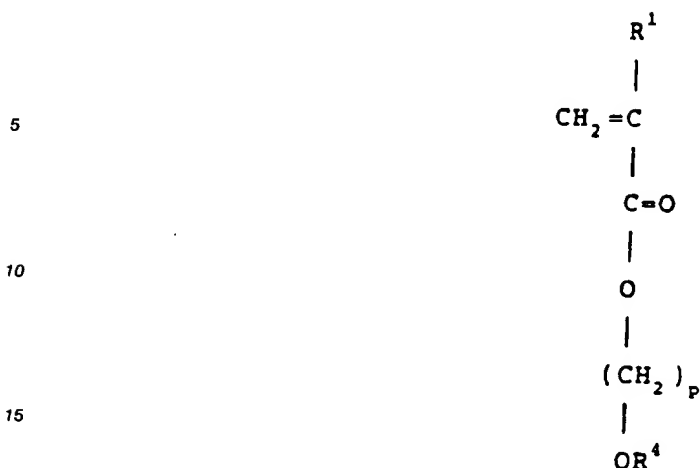
dans laquelle n représente le nombre entier 2 ou 3;

(b) les amides, tels que l'acrylamide ou le méthacrylamide, ayant la structure :



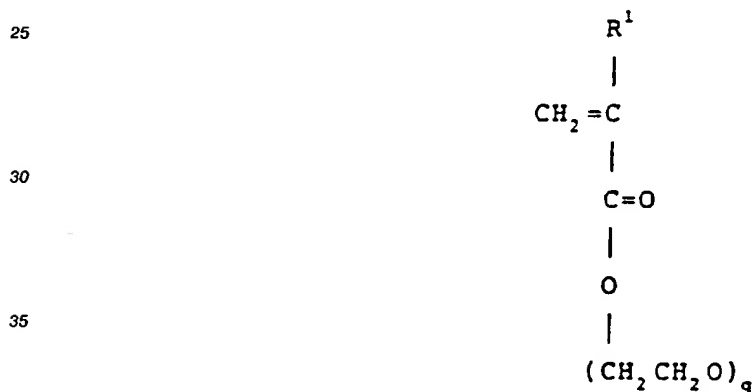
dans laquelle R¹ représente H ou -CH₃, R² représente H ou un groupe alkyle comportant jusqu'à 10 atomes de carbone et R³ représente H, un groupe alkyle comportant jusqu'à 10 atomes de carbone, avantageusement comportant de 1 à 4 atomes de carbone, un groupe hydroxyalkyle ou un groupe alcoxyalkyle ayant la structure -(CH₂)_m-OR² où m représente un nombre entier de 1 à 3 inclusive-ment.

5. Feuille d'enregistrement suivant la revendication 4, dans laquelle le composé polaire est la N-vinylpyrrolidone.
6. Feuille d'enregistrement suivant la revendication 2, dans laquelle l'alkylester éthyléniquement insaturé, hydrophile est choisi dans le groupe comprenant :
 - (a) les alcoxy alkylacrylates, les hydroxy alkylacrylates, les alcoxy alkylméthacrylates et les hydroxy alkylméthacrylates ayant la structure :



dans laquelle p représente un nombre entier de 1 à 4 inclusivement, avantageusement 2 ou 3, R¹ représente H ou -CH₃ et R⁴ représente H ou un groupe alkyle comportant 1 à 4 atomes de carbone; et

(b) les alcoxy acrylates ou alcoxy méthacrylates ayant la structure :



dans laquelle q représente un nombre entier de 5 à 25 inclusivement et R¹ est tel que défini précédemment.

7. Feuille d'enregistrement suivant la revendication 1, dans laquelle l'agent de réticulation du type aziridine polyfonctionnelle est choisi dans le groupe comprenant le triméthylolpropane-tris-(β-(N-aziridiny)propionate), le pentaérythritol-tris-(β-(N-aziridiny)propionate) et le triméthylolpropane-tris-(β-(N-méthylaziridiny)propionate).

8. Feuille d'enregistrement suivant la revendication 1, dans laquelle le poids de l'agent de réticulation du type aziridine polyfonctionnelle constitue environ 1,0 à environ 6,0 % en poids de la couche.

9. Feuille d'enregistrement suivant la revendication 1, dans laquelle le support transparent est un film de polyester.